the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) has been taken and sanction for prosecution has been issued. The defaulting exporter has also been detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) Act.

In the Export-Import Policy for 1995-96, the Value Based Advance Licences have been made subject to additional Customs duty with corresponding Modvat/Drawback benefits.

This is expected to discourage misuse of VABAL Scheme. Further the Enforcement Directorate in the Ministry of Finance keeps a close vigil to prevent Hawala transactions and takes severe action against offenders, under the provisions of FERA and COFEPOSA.

Export of books newspapers and magazines

7618. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the value of books, Newspapers and Magazines etc., exported during the year 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The value of books, newspapers and magazines etc. exported during the year 1994-95 is estimated at Rs. 89 crors.

(Source: Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council)

News letters on dumping by FICCI

7619. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "FICCI urged to issue quartely on dumping as reported in the Pioneer dated 20th April, 1995;

(b) if so, whether Government have asked FICCI to bring out a quarterly newsletter on developments relating to dumping of goods;

(c) if so, whether Government have failed to keep a check on dumping of goods; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In a seminar on Anti-Dumping organised by FICCI, it was suggested that a quartely newsletter could be brought out by FICCI highlighting the details of anti-dumping cases worldwide in order to spread awareness amongst the industry.

(c) and (d) In the Ministry of Commerce appropriate machinery exists with the Designated Authority to receive and examine complaints relating to dumping of goods in India. Petitions received by the Authority from the domestic industry, are examined and wherever warranted anti-dumping duty has alo been recommended and levied.

Boosting trade ties with Russia

7620. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has expressed its desire to boost trade ties with India;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the areas identified for the expansion of Indo-Russian trade; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India and the Government of Russia have the desire to boost trade ties. Various measures for promoting bilateral trade and economic cooperation have been undertaken by the Government which include:—

- Promotion of dialogue with the Russian side including at the highest level.
- activation of the Joint Commission mechanism with its working group on Trade and Economic Cooperation and Sub group on Transport which have met separately to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral economic relations.